

# FUSION ENERGY REACTOR MODELS INTEGRATOR

**GAMOW Kickoff Meeting**  
**January 21–22, 2021**

PI: Vittorio Badalassi, Distinguished R&D Staff Member, ORNL

Co-PIs: D. Kropaczek, C. Kessel (ORNL), S. Smolentsev (UCLA/HyPerComp Inc.),  
P. Huang (HyPerComp Inc.), J. Solberg (LLNL), D. Whyte (MIT/CFS)



# Team members and roles



## PI: V. Badalassi PhD CEng

Responsible for overall program coordination and execution, with full authority for management of the budget, the R&D program, and operations



## Co-PI: S. Smolentsev PhD

MHD turbulence models implementation

Validation of HIMAG+PRECICE

LIB preliminary design & validation



## Co-PI: P. Huang PhD

HIMAG coupling with PRECICE

Development and Validation of the FERMI software suite



## Co-PI: J. Solberg PhD

DIABLO coupling with PRECICE

Development and Validation of the FERMI software suite



## Co-PI: C. Kessel PhD

Project advisor

LIB design advisor



## Co-PI: D. Kropaczek PhD

Project advisor

Code coupling validation



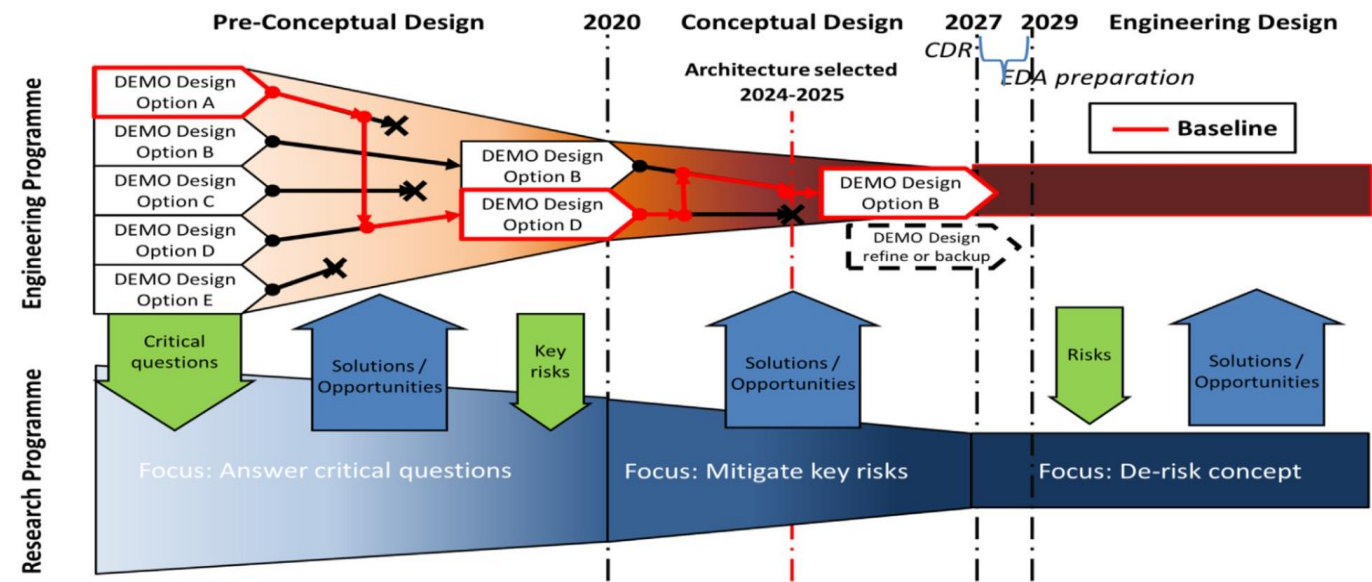
## Co-PI: Prof. D. Whyte

Project advisor

ARC (LIB) inventor & chief designer

MIT/CFS collaboration with the FERMI team

# High-level motivation, innovation, and goals of the project



## Technology Summary

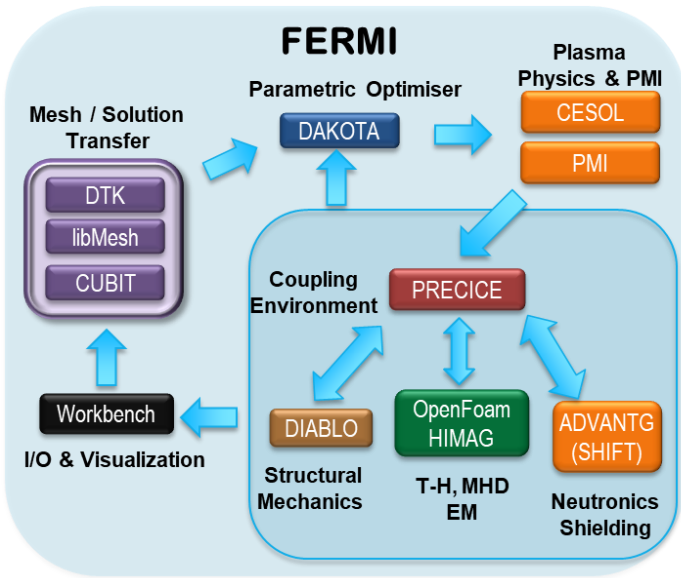
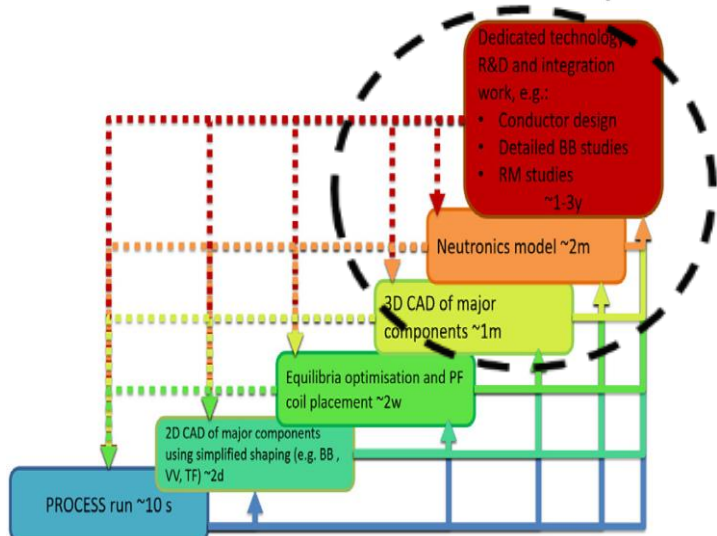
- Development of a fusion virtual MS blanket
- Integrated Multiphysics Environment
- Focus on the Liquid Immersion Blanket (LIB)
- Validation on available data and results

## Technology Impact

- Speeds up the overall design development by 30 times
- Exceptional fidelity of the engineering calculations
- Enables the development of a commercial fusion reactor

## Proposed Targets

| Metric   | State of the Art              | Proposed                                |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Coupled Multiphysics First Wall and Blanket Simulation | No existing capability        | FERMI integrated simulation environment |
| LIB-FliBe cooled/breed FW & Blanket Proof of Concept   | TRL = 3                       | TRL = 6                                 |
| Conceptual Design time                                 | 9 Years                       | 3 months                                |
| Design team number and design iterations               | 20 engineers and 3 iterations | 3 engineers and 6 iterations            |



[Coleman et al. 2019]

# Major tasks, milestones, risks, and desired project outcomes

## ► Milestones

- New MHD turbulence models implementation (Q2-2021)
- Virtual Molten Salt (LIB) Blanket (Q2-2022)
- Preliminary LIB Concept Design (Q2-2022)
- LIB design optimized & validated using FERMI (Q3-2023)
- Documentation, software release, stakeholder workshop (Q4-2023)

## ► Outcomes

- Virtual MS blanket 3D simulator
- Validated & proven LIB-ARC blanket design
- Reusable software for DCLL and other blankets of tokamak reactors
- First step towards a FULL fusion virtual reactor

### Major Technical Risks

Lack of availability or access to sufficient reliable experimental data for model calibration and validation

Unforeseen software challenges integrating existing capabilities

Numerical challenges related to the coupling of multi-physics

Extreme high dimensionality and nonlinearity of the fully coupled codes posing difficulties for scalable, efficient error estimation, data assimilation, sensitivity analysis, uncertainty quantification, and optimization

Geometrical complexity requiring complex meshing, large problem sizes which reduce turn-around time, leading to modeling errors and/or low-quality meshes creating numerical difficulties

# T2M and aspirational follow-on plans

| Reactor    | Technical & Cost Metric | Present state of the art                                  | Commercial or Development Targets        | Achieved by FERMI                                  | Cost Saving  |
|------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| ARC        | Technical metric #1     | RANS turbulence models (no MHD)                           | MHD RANS turbulent models built in HIMAG | New RANS MHD put in HIMAG                          | N/A          |
|            | Technical metric #2     | Pre conceptual MS Blanket Design -TRL=3                   | Design built and proven in a lab - TRL=7 | Design proven with FERMI - TRL=6                   | N/A          |
| CPP<br>ARC | Technical metric #3     | Design using single codes with partial physics simulation | Full Multiphysics integrated simulations | Coupling of validated codes for blanket simulation | N/A          |
|            | Cost metric #1          | 9 years of design time for baseline blankets              | Few months                               | 3 months for a full design - TRL=6                 | 25Mn\$       |
|            | Cost metric #2          | Blanket design needs a team of 20 engineers               | Less than 5                              | 3 engineers for the design -TRL=6                  | 2.6Mn\$/year |
|            | Cost metric #3          | 2-3 design iterations for optimization                    | More than 5                              | 6 iterations in the 3 months for design            | N/A          |

## ► Test & deployment plans/aspirations

- Enabler of the Affordable, Robust, Compact (ARC) fusion reactor
- Fits into the CFS path to testing on fusion-scale experiment (SPARC & ARC)
- Potential Collaborations after the FERMI project:
  - Commonwealth Fusion Systems (ongoing)
  - General Fusion
  - General Atomics
  - Startups
- Free license to DOE Labs and US companies – export controlled